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Letter dated 1 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on 28 February 2002 concerning the holding of illegitimate and unlawful "elections" by the Abkhaz separatist regime in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 2 March 2002 (see annex).

In the current circumstances, those acts represent an aggressive attempt to thwart the best efforts of international organizations to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Therefore, I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the appeal of the Government of Georgia to the Security Council to give due assessment to the provocative actions of the Abkhaz side and to reaffirm the illegality and unacceptability of the "elections".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is authorized to state that the decision by the Abkhaz separatist regime to hold self-styled parliamentary elections in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 2 March 2002 is illegal, and that the results of those "elections" should be declared void.

In addition to being illegal, those "elections" are illegitimate since two thirds of the native population of the region have been forcibly expelled, the security and safety of the remaining Georgian population are under constant threat and their basic human rights are regularly violated, and conditions for the free expression of the will of the people are non-existent.

All self-styled referenda and "elections" held by the Abkhaz separatist regime in Abkhazia, Georgia, have been considered unacceptable and illegitimate by United Nations Security Council resolutions, as well as by the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

It is disconcerting that the decision by Abkhaz separatists to conduct self-styled parliamentary elections comes on the eve of the submission by the Special Representative of a draft paper containing specific proposals to the parties on the question of the distribution of constitutional competencies between Tbilisi and Sokhumi as a basis for meaningful negotiations.

The Government of Georgia strongly believes that this unlawful action by the Abkhaz side creates additional obstacles to the peace process, counteracts the goodwill of the Government and people of Georgia, and undermines the efforts of the international community to find a comprehensive peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abkhaza, Georgia, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

We hope that the Security Council and other international organizations will reiterate their view that the holding of self-styled parliamentary elections in Abkhazia, Georgia, is unacceptable.